

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PC 04 021 B	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/EP2004/001887	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 26.02.2004	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 22.03.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC		
Applicant KNF NEUBERGER GMBH		

<p>1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p>3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:</p>	<p>a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau</i>) a total of 5 sheets, as follows:</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.</p>																								
<p>b. <input type="checkbox"/> (<i>sent to the International Bureau only</i>) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).</p>																										
<p>4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 15px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td style="width: 15px;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. I Basis of the report</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. II Priority</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VI Certain documents cited</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> <td>Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application</td> </tr> </table>			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I Basis of the report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II Priority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI Certain documents cited	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application
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Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/001887

Box No. I

Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

- This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 - publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
 - international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):

- the international application as originally filed/furnished
 the description:

pages 1, 4-6 as originally filed/furnished
 pages* 2, 2a, 3 received by this Authority on 07.08.2004 with letter
 of 30.07.2004

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

- the claims:

nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
 nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
 07.06.2004 with letter
 nos.* 1-7 received by this Authority on of 30.07.2004

nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____

- the drawings:

sheets 1/2, 2/2 as originally filed/furnished
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
 sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____

- a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- the description, pages _____
- the claims, nos. _____
- the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

- the description, pages _____
- the claims, nos. _____
- the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/EP2004/001887

Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1 - 7	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1 - 7	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1 - 7	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

1. The present application relates to a membrane pump comprising a working membrane which, when the pump is in motion, oscillates between a lower and an upper dead point.

The closest prior art is considered to be document WO-A-00 49293, cited in the search report and acknowledged on page 2 of the description. A membrane pump with a working membrane made of an elastic material is already known from said document, cracking being prevented therein by the provision of ribs on the upper side of the membrane. However, bulging of the membrane in its flexible annular region between the fixed edge and the central region cannot be prevented by means of circumferentially aligned ribs.

The working membrane according to claim 1 differs from the aforementioned prior art by virtue of the provision of radially aligned and mutually spaced circumferential support ribs in the non-deformable region of the membrane, said support ribs being

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Box No. V**Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

located on the lower side of the membrane. These features cannot be derived from any of the documents cited in the search report.

The subject matter of independent claim 1 therefore satisfies the requirements of PCT Article 33(1) and (2).

Dependent claims 2 to 7 relate to advantageous embodiments of the membrane pump according to claim 1. The subject matter of said claims is therefore novel and is not obvious from the prior art citations.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

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Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

2. Dependent claims 3 and 4 contain a reference, between parentheses, to figures 4 and 3. This reference is superfluous.